

Message Text

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73

ACTION ARA-10

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, PINT, PE

SUBJECT: EXILE CLAIMS PERU IS COMMUNIST

1. OCTOBER 14 COMERCIO REPRINTS UNDATED ARTICLE BY EUDOCIO RAVINES, WHICH APPEARED IN MIAMI'S DIARIO DE LAS AMERICAS. RAVINES CLAIMS PERU IS GOING COMMUNIST. COMERCIO'S INTENTION IN REPRINTING ARTICLE IS APPARENTLY TO DEMONSTRATE PERUVIAN PRESS IS FREE AND TO SHOW EXTENT TO WHICH GOVERNMENT'S EXILED CRITICS WILL GO TO TWIST GOP REFORMS. RAVINES IS A FORMER COMMUNIST WHO HAS BECOME VERY CONSERVATIVE.

2. RAVINES NOTES CORRECTLY THAT PRESIDENT VELASCO'S OUSTER OF NAVY ADMIRAL VARGAS REPRESENTED A TOTAL VICTORY FOR PRESIDENT. HOWEVER, RAVINES STATES THAT GENERAL MORALES AND IMPORTANT SEGMENT OF THE ARMY SYMPATHIZE WITH VARGAS. (THIS IS UTTER SPECULATION.)

3. WRITER CLAIMS THAT PERU HAS ON HAND 250 SOVIET TANKS, 50 ARMORED CARS (PRESUMABLY SOVIET), SURFACE TO SURFACE AND AIR TO SURFACE MISSILES. (EXCEPT FOR UNKNOWN NUMBER OF TANKS AND SMALL NUMBER OF HELICOPTERS USED IN OIL EXPLORATION, PERU HAS NOT, TO THE EMBASSY'S KNOWLEDGE, ACQUIRED FURTHER SOVIET WEAPONRY.)

4. RAVINES STATES THAT THERE IS AN UNKNOWN NUMBER OF SOVIET

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OFFICERS IN PERU AND THAT, IN FACT, THERE ARE TWO ARMED FORCES

IN PERU. THE FIRST IS PERUVIAN AND THE SECOND COMPOSED OF COMMUNIST TROOPS TRAINED BY RUSSIANS, YUGOSLAVS AND CUBANS. (NO KNOWN CUBAN OR YUGOSLAV MILITARY INSTRUCTORS ARE IN PERU; THERE ARE SEVERAL SOVIET INSTRUCTORS TEACHING THE USE OF THE SOVIET T-55 TANKS AND MAINTAINING HELICOPTERS.)

5. RAVINES REPEATS CANARD THAT AEROFLOT-PERU CIVIL AVIATION AGREEMENT MAKES SOVIET AIRLINE AVAILABLE TO GOP IN CASE OF CONFLICT. (BRANIFF, LAN-CHILE AND OTHER AIRLINE CONTRACTS CARRY SAME CLAUSE.)

6. HE ALLEGES THAT THE KREMLIN HAS AS MUCH CONTROL OVER PERU AS IT DOES OVER CUBA AND CZECHOSLOVAKIA.

7. COMMENTING ON DOMESTIC AFFAIRS, RAVINES STATES THAT REVOLUTIONARY DEFENSE COMMITTEES (BLOCK VIGILANTE COMMITTEES) ARE TO BE SET UP AS IN CUBA. (THIS HAS IN FACT BEEN RUMORED BUT BY NO MEANS IMPLEMENTED). RAVINES ALSO CLAIMS THAT PERUVIANS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO LEAVE THEIR COUNTRY OR TRAVEL INTERNALLY WITHOUT SPECIAL PERMISSION (NO SUBSTANCE).

8. FINALLY, RAVINES SAYS THAT BRASIL, CHILE, BOLIVIA AND ECUADOR CANNOT PERMIT WHAT IS GOING ON IN PERU, AND THAT WAR IS A POSSIBILITY.

COMMENT: RAVINES' IMAGINATIVE PIECE IS CITED BY SEVERAL LOCAL NEWSPAPERS AS AN EXAMPLE OF THE DEPTHS TO WHICH PERU'S ENEMIES HAVE FALLEN. THE PRESS ALSO CALLS RAVINES A CIA HIRED HAND. ENCOURAGED BY PRESIDENT VELASCO'S OCTOBER 9 SPEECH IN WHICH INTER ALIA HE CONDEMNED BIG POWER (U.S.) INTERVENTION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES, THE NEWLY REORGANIZED PRO-GOVERNMENT LEFTIST PRESS HAS HAD A FIELD DAY ALLEGING CIA INTERVENTION IN PERU. IT HAS ACCUSED EXTREME LEFTIST LED GROUPS, SUCH AS THE MAJORITY TEACHERS UNION (SUTEP) WHICH HAS REFUSED TO ACCEPT A NEW TEACHERS' STATUTE, OF PLAYING INTO CIA'S HANDS. THE LOCAL PRESS HAS ALSO BEEN TRADING PROPAGANDA BLOWS WITH THE INTER-AMERICAN PRESS SOCIETY, CURRENTLY MEETING IN CARACAS "IN ORDER TO ATTACK PERU".

DEAN

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